

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

*"Earth Day is observed annually to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment."*



**FINLEY, April 21, 2010** — Forty years ago, a small group of dedicated citizens decided to take action to make their local communities cleaner and healthier, and from this spirit, *Earth Day* was born. Since then countless Americans have made a positive impact on our planet, and now President Obama is calling on all of us to pitch in and help protect the environment.

That spirit continues today as Jasper Schneider, USDA Rural Development State Director, and the citizens of Finley join together to celebrate Earth Day with the announcement of federal funding to rehabilitate the existing sanitary sewer system. Finley is located in the Griggs/Steele Empowerment Zone.

"USDA Rural Development is proud to be a partner in this project helping the city of Finley build



*Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director, (second from right) holds a symbolic check for \$1.7 million presented to Larry Amundson, (right) Mayor of Finley, for infrastructure upgrades, during Earth Day 2010 festivities. L to R: John Padalino, Beth Berge, Amanda Kubik, Ben Vig, Jasper Schneider, and Larry Amundson.*

and upgrade essential infrastructure demonstrating President Obama's continued efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents," Jasper Schneider said. "Only by working together can we ensure that the environment we leave our children and grandchildren is a healthy and strong inheritance. We only get one chance to do this right."

The funding package to rehabilitate the

existing sanitary system consists of a loan for \$942,000 and a

grant for \$758,000. The funds are administered through Rural Development's Utilities Water and Environmental Loan and Grant program. Total estimated cost of the project is \$1.7 million.

"Earth Day reminds us of the critical role USDA can play in confronting challenges of our nation's natural resources like climate change, air and water pollution," continued Schneider. "This project in Finley serves a critical role in protecting the environment by rehabilitating the existing sanitary sewer system and improving the wastewater treatment process."



*Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director, (left) Larry Amundson, Finley Mayor, (center) and John Padalino, Special Assistant, Rural Utilities Program (right) participate in planting an American Linden tree to celebrate Earth Day 2010 in Finley, N.D.*

The city's sanitary sewer system was built in 1930 and the lagoon system in 1968. The existing sanitary system includes vitrified clay tile pipe (VCP) and the existing manholes are made of brick cast in place. The system includes five lift stations with the wastewater pumped into a two-cell lagoon system.

The project consists of rehabilitating the existing sanitary sewer system by installing a cured-in-place pipe inside of the VCP main lines, a cast-in-place concrete liner in the manholes and spot repair the sanitary mains where the pipe is broken. The cured-in-place pipe results in a smooth, continuous inner surface. The process is accomplished by the insertion and curing of a resin impregnated felt tube in the host pipe. The felt tube is first vacuum impregnated with resin. It is then installed by inversion into the host pipe under water pressure. Following the inversion, the resin is cured using hot water. This method of rehabilitation does not require any excavation.

The manholes will be rehabilitated via a cast-in-place concrete liner installed. There are small lengths of sewer main that will require a complete removal and replacement of the broken pipe prior to the installation of the cured-in-place liner. This alternative will revitalize the existing system and remedying the environmental impacts and health risk to the public.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided **\$56.4 million** in housing programs, **\$79.7 million** in business and community programs, and **\$647.1** million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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